

STATE SENATOR • MICHAEL PRUSI • 38TH DISTRICT

Prusi Press Release

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PRUSI FIGHTS FOR FIRE PROTECTION GRANTS

State grants would provide \$467,000 for local fire departments

LANSING –State Senator Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming) voted with Democratic members of the Senate to fully fund Fire Protection Grants for local communities. An amendment offered by Senator Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) would have increased the funding available for these grants. The amendment was defeated on party lines; a similar amendment was attempted in the House. Senator Prusi's vote meant an additional \$252,000 for local communities in his Senate District.

"I was disappointed that my colleagues in the legislature decided not to fully fund these grants," Prusi said. "In many U.P. communities there is a considerable amount of state owned property that provides no tax revenue but must be protected by local fire departments; fully funding Fire Protection Grants would provide some relief for this burden."

The Fire Protection Grant program was created in 1977 to provide payments to local units of government in lieu of property taxes for fire protection of state-owned buildings. Local communities use these grants to fund fire departments, purchase needed emergency equipment, and provide necessary training. The cities of Escanaba, Marquette, Manistique, and Houghton lost over \$227,680 due to the legislature's inaction. Escanaba and Marquette lost over \$25,000 and \$171,000 respectively.

"Given the current climate, we should be better funding our first-responders," Prusi said. "I hope my colleagues will work with me to find a way to fully fund these necessary grants to our local governments."

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Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38th Senate District, which includes all Upper Peninsula counties west of Luce County.